(c) to what extent the power crisis and load shedding was attributable to the inefficiency of the State Electricity Boards and what action Government propose to take against the negligent functionaries of the Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The power shortage in some States is mainly on account of reduced hydel generation due to low reserviour levels and the unsatisfactory performance of some thermal stations. The steps taken to improve the supply of power include expediting commissioning of new capacity, better utilisation of existing capacity, implementing short gestation projects, reducing transmission and distribution losses, and implementation of energy conservation and demand management measures. As a result power generation in the country during April to June, 1986 has increased by 10.4% as compared with the corresponding period of 1985.

(d) No study has been made by the Department of Power regarding the loss suffered by industry only on account of power shortage during 1984-85 to 1986-87.

(e) The power shortage is also largely attributable to the demand having outstripped even the increased generation, In order to strengthen the performance of State Electricity Boards, a Centrally sponsored scheme is being implemented to assist the State Electricity Boards in renovating and modernising identified thermal stations. Assistance is also being provided for early stabilisation of newly commissioned units, upgrading the skills of operation and maintenance of personnel and arranging the supply of adequate quantity and quality of coal and of spare parts, etc.

**Inadequate supply of cooking gas in U.P.**

*56. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the irregular and inadequate supply of cooking gas in most of the U.P. towns causing grave hardship to customers ;

(b) is so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ensure regular cooking gas supply by the various companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) to (c) In Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) LPG is marketed by three Oil Companies namely Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation. At present supply of LPG refills by IOC (which accounts for around 75% market share in the State) throughout U.P. is normal. There is a marginal backlog in supply in some of the markets of HPC, primarily due to the distributors **no** having placed adequate indents with the oil company; HPC is taking this up with the distributors to correct the situation. Amongst BPC's markets there has been inadequate supply in two towns in the State, at Agra due to resignation of a distributor and at Hathras on account of termination of a distributorship. Alternative arrangements have been made for supply of LPG refills at these places.